



ANOTHER THRILLER FEATURING  
**ECLIPSO** --HERO AND VILLAIN *in* ONE MAN!

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

APR.  
NO. 71

# HOUSE of

# SEV

MARK MERLIN  
BATTLES  
**"The GIANT WHO  
ONCE RULED EARTH!"**

AWAY, PUNY  
MEDDLER! I MUST HAVE  
MORE TRIBUTE UNTIL  
THE GODS RELEASE MY  
BROTHER-GIANTS, AND  
EARTH IS OURS  
AGAIN!





THE MOST WANTED CRIMINAL OF THE AGE...THE MOST UNUSUAL DEFENDANT IN LEGAL HISTORY--**ECLIPSO**--IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BAR OF JUSTICE! AND IRONICALLY, HIS OTHER SELF, **DR. BRUCE GORDON**, BRILLIANT YOUNG SCIENTIST AND BENEFactor OF HUMANITY, IS CALLED UPON TO BE THE STAR WITNESS AT...

# The TRIAL of ECLIPSO

GREAT BLAZES! AN ARTIFICIAL ECLIPSE! I'M CHANGING...CHANGING TEMPORARILY INTO **ECLIPSO**!



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# HOUSE OF SECRETS

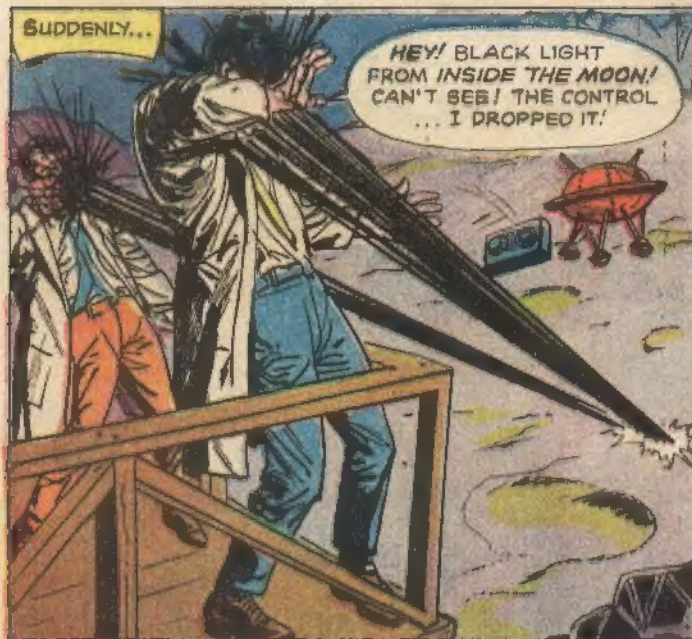


AT A LAB,  
MAKING SPACE  
EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT,  
THE NIGHT  
SHIFT TRIES  
TO SOLVE  
A "LUNAR  
LANDING"  
PROBLEM...



"BUG" DESCENDING TO  
"MOON" SURFACE NICELY...  
REMOTE CONTROL FUNC-  
TIONING NORMALLY...

SUDDENLY...



HEY! BLACK LIGHT  
FROM INSIDE THE MOON!  
CAN'T SEE! THE CONTROL  
... I DROPPED IT!

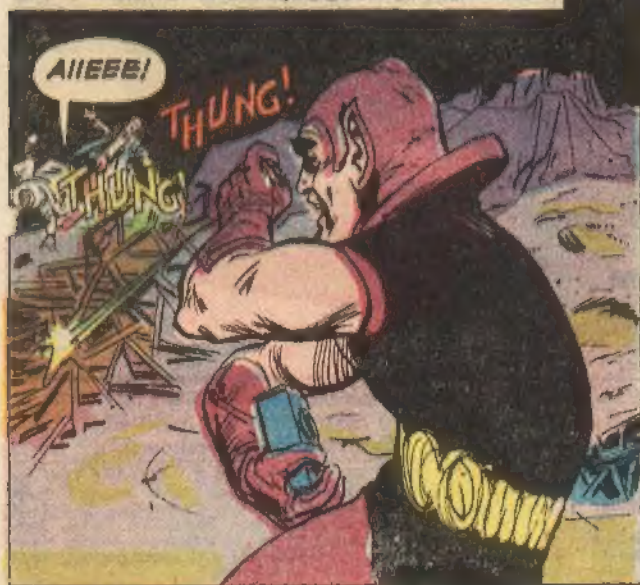
THE NEXT INSTANT, THE PLASTIC MOON  
"ERUPTS" TO REVEAL-- ECLIPSO,  
MASTER OF BLACK SCIENCE!



THAT WEIRDO IN THE  
COSTUME... ECLIPSO!  
HOW'D HE GET IN  
THERE?

HE'S  
GOT THE "BUG"  
CONTROL!  
STOP HIM!

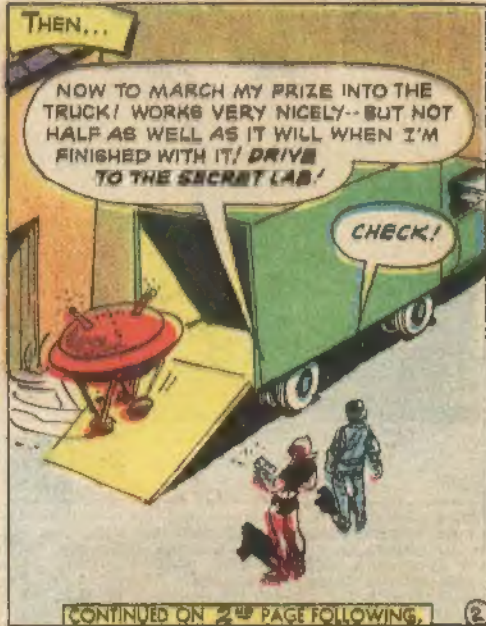
BUT THE GENIUS OF DARKNESS SENDS ENERGY  
BOLTS THROUGH HIS UNIQUE BLACK DIAMOND AND...



ALIEEE!

THUNG!

THEN...



NOW TO MARCH MY PRIZE INTO THE  
TRUCK! WORKS VERY NICELY-- BUT NOT  
HALF AS WELL AS IT WILL WHEN I'M  
FINISHED WITH IT! DRIVE  
TO THE SECRET LAB!

CHECK!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

2



LATER THAT DAY, THE AUDACIOUS CRIMINAL APPROACHES A LOCKED FACTORY...

BREAKING INTO THIS PLACE SHOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME! I'LL BE OUT BEFORE THEY CAN BEGIN TO RESPOND TO ANY BURGLAR ALARM!

SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

NOT THAT I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING CAUGHT! MY DIAMOND'S POWERS INSURE AGAINST *THAT* EVER HAPPENING!



MY GEM--  
KNOCKED FROM  
MY HAND!

BEEOW!

AND THEN...

THE POLICE!

YES, ECLIPSO--AND A MARKSMAN'S WELL-PLACED BULLET HAS LEFT YOU AS POWERLESS AS ANY COMMON BURGLAR! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

NEXT MORNING, IN THE LAB COMPLEX WHERE DR. BRUCE GORDON, BRILLIANT YOUNG SCIENTIST, CONFERS WITH HIS MENTOR, PROF. BENNET, AND HIS FIANCEE, MONA BENNET...

FANTASTIC...INCREDIBLE... BUT IT'S HAPPENED! WHEN THAT ECLIPSE SPLIT ECLIPSO OFF FROM MY BODY TWO DAYS AGO, AND HE GAVE US THE SLIP-- I NEVER DREAMED THIS WOULD BE THE RESULT!







YES, ONLY WE THREE KNOW THAT IT REQUIRES INTENSE LIGHT TO RETURN HIM TO YOUR BODY! WE NEVER THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE CAPTURED AND JEOPARDIZE THE SECRET OF YOUR SPLIT SELF!

BRING!

AS BRUCE TAKES THE SHORT PHONE MESSAGE...

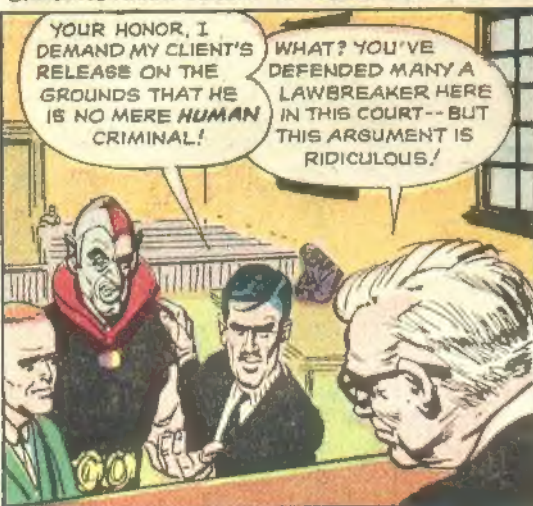
IT'S THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! ECLIPSO'S BEING HELD FOR TRIAL, AND I'VE

OH, DARLING, IF IT EVER COMES OUT THAT HE'S YOUR EVIL OTHER SELF, YOU'LL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE-- AND YOU'RE REALLY INNOCENT!

BEEN CALLED AS A PROSECUTION WITNESS! WHAT IRONY!

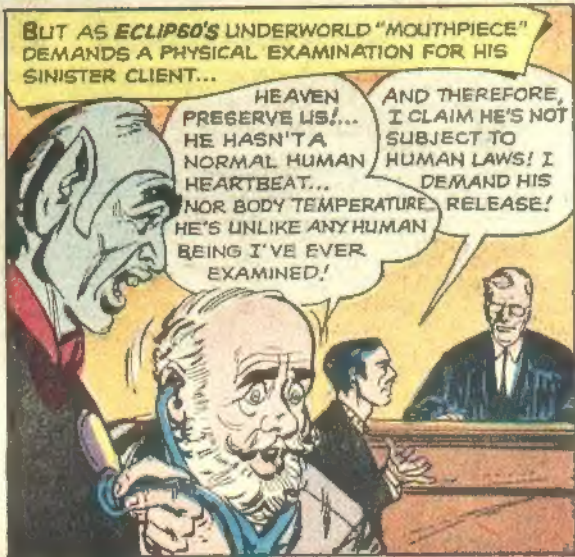


AT THIS MOMENT, IN THE CITY COURT, AN UNUSUAL ARRAIGNMENT IS TAKING PLACE...



YOUR HONOR, I DEMAND MY CLIENT'S RELEASE ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE IS NO MERE HUMAN CRIMINAL!

WHAT? YOU'VE DEFENDED MANY A LAWBREAKER HERE IN THIS COURT-- BUT THIS ARGUMENT IS RIDICULOUS!



BUT AS ECLIPSO'S UNDERWORLD "MOUTHPIECE" DEMANDS A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR HIS SINISTER CLIENT...

HEAVEN PRESERVE US!... HE HASN'T A NORMAL HUMAN HEARTBEAT... NOR BODY TEMPERATURE. HE'S UNLIKE ANY HUMAN BEING I'VE EVER EXAMINED!

AND THEREFORE, I CLAIM HE'S NOT SUBJECT TO HUMAN LAWS! I DEMAND HIS RELEASE!



YOUR HONOR! IT'S SOME TRICK! ECLIPSO'S CRIMES ARE MANY AND I'LL PROVE THEM IN COURT! ONE MAN, PARTICULARLY, WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FIGHTING HIM, WILL TESTIFY AGAINST HIM! DR. BRUCE GORDON, THE RENOWNED SCIENTIST!



GORDON? GORDON TESTIFY AGAINST ECLIPSO! NEVER! HA! HA! HA!

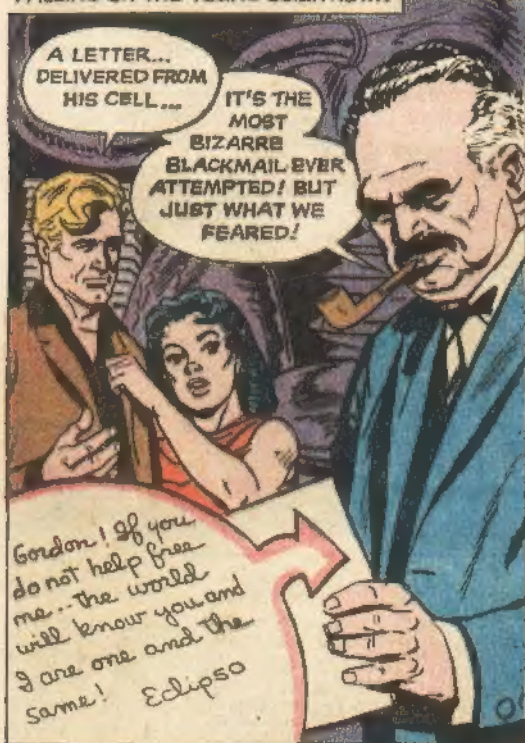




# HOUSE OF SECRETS



AND NEXT DAY, LIKE SOME COLD HAND OF DOOM  
FALLING ON THE YOUNG SCIENTIST...



THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS A PACKED  
COURTROOM WAITS TENSELY FOR  
THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY TO  
BEGIN...



AS THE COURT ECHOES WITH  
DEMONIC LAUGHTER-- NO ONE  
NOTICES THE MAN ON A BUILD-  
ING LEDGE OPPOSITE THE  
COURTROOM WINDOW...



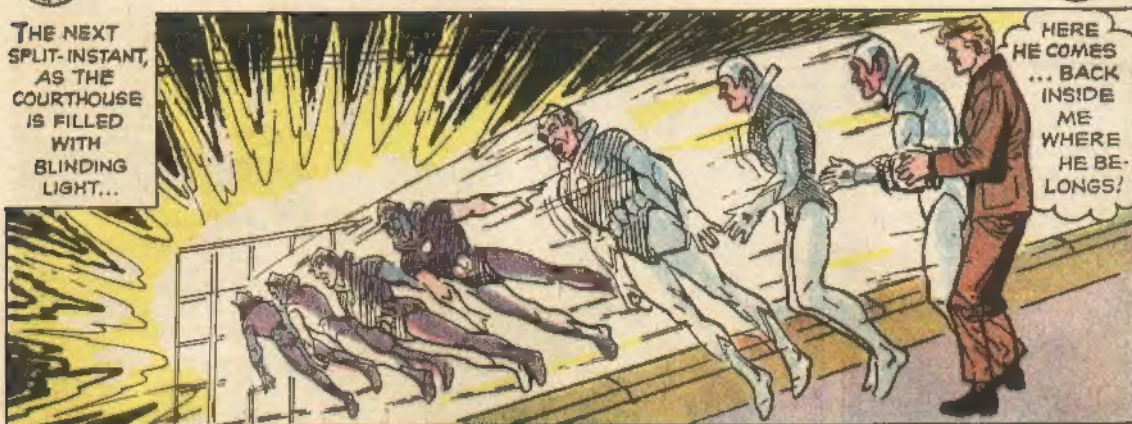




# HOUSE OF SECRETS



THE NEXT  
SPLIT-INSTANT,  
AS THE  
COURTHOUSE  
IS FILLED  
WITH  
BLINDING  
LIGHT...



HERE  
HE COMES  
... BACK  
INSIDE  
ME  
WHERE  
HE BE-  
LONGS!

AND IN THE COURTROOM...



THAT FLASH  
OF LIGHT **BLINDED**  
**EVERYONE**  
FOR A WHILE!

THE PRISONER--  
HE'S GONE!  
IMPOSSIBLE!

C'MON, MONA--  
THAT'S  
OUR EXIT  
CUE!

AS THE POLICE RUSH OUTSIDE...



DR. GORDON!  
ECLIPSO'S ESCAPED...  
VANISHED!

I SAW NO ONE...  
I'M JUST ARRIVING  
TO TESTIFY! PERHAPS  
ECLIPSO'S REALLY  
NOT HUMAN,  
AFTER ALL!



BRUCE, IT  
WORKED! AN  
IMPOSSIBLE  
LONGSHOT, BUT  
IT CLICKED!

I COULDN'T PERMIT  
HIM TO EXIST... EVEN  
BEHIND BARS! HE'S TOO  
DANGEROUS AN ENTITY!



ECLIPSO IS A STRANGE  
FORM OF MY OWN LIFE  
ENERGY... AND ALL I'VE  
DONE IS RE-INTERN  
HIM WITHIN MY BODY--  
LOCK HIM UP SO  
TO SPEAK!

I THINK  
YOU'VE DONE  
THE ONLY  
THING YOU  
COULD,  
BRUCE!



LATER...

WHILE THE POLICE SEARCH FOR MY OTHER SELF, I'LL GET BUSY TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THOSE SPACE GADGETS HE STOLE... LUCKILY, MY REPUTATION ALLOWS ME TO ENTER HERE!

BUT AS THE FAMED YOUNG SCIENTIST ENTERS THE SPACE LAB HANGAR...

GREAT NOVAS! A SPACE EXPERIMENT'S IN PROGRESS... AND AN **ARTIFICIAL ECLIPSE** OF THAT SEARCHLIGHT IS RESULTING!

CAUGHT IN THE ACCIDENTAL ECLIPSE OF THE BRILLIANT LIGHT, BRUCE FEELS TELL-TALE SENSATIONS...

I'M CHANGING... CHANGING TEMPORARILY... INTO... **ECLIPSO!** CAN'T STOP IT... CAN'T DO A THING!



AND BEFORE THE DAZED FIGURE CAN REACT...

**THERE!** WE'VE BAGGED HIM! THAT HOUDINI ESCAPE IN THE COURTROOM DIDN'T DO HIM MUCH GOOD!

WHAT A DOUBLE IRONY! GORDON "RESCUED" ME AND NOW WE'RE **BOTH** PRISONERS, SINCE THAT ARTIFICIAL ECLIPSE DIDN'T SPLIT US APART!





AND BACK AT THE LAB COMPLEX...

GOOD STARS! IN A SHORT WHILE, THE ARTIFICIAL ECLIPSE EFFECTS WILL WEAR OFF, REVEALING THE MAN IN THE CELL TO BE... DR. BRUCE GORDON!

OH, DAD, IT'S HOPELESS! BRUCE'S AWFUL SECRET WILL FINALLY COME OUT! (SOB) WE CAN'T JUST STAY HERE AND DO NOTHING!



BUT AT THIS MOMENT, THE MAN IN THE CELL IS STILL... ECLIPSO!

BLAST IT! WHEN I CHANGE BACK, THEY'LL IMPRISON GORDON-- WHICH IS THE SAME AS JAILING ME! I ONLY THREATENED TO REVEAL OUR MUTUAL IDENTITY TO BLACKMAIL HIM...



...WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY HENCHMEN?

AS THE DESPERATE PRISONER WATCHES THE FATEFUL MINUTES TICK BY...



GOOD NIGHT, WARDEN!

GOOD NIGHT, SIMMONS! WATCH ECLIPSO EVERY SECOND! HE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS FISH WE'VE EVER NETTED!

THEN, AS THE WARDEN WALKS TOWARD HIS WAITING CAR...

THERE HE IS-- I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT HIM!... NOW ACTIVATE THE MACHINE, ZARNIK!



AND INSIDE THE SHADOWY VEHICLE...

PERFECT! THE DUPLICATOR WE BUILT TO ECLIPSO'S DESIGN IS CHANGING EMIL INTO AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE PRISON WARDEN!







# HOUSE OF SECRETS



SHORTLY...



WARDEN SCOTT! YOU'RE BACK...??

YES, SIMMONS! JUST RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE GOVERNOR! THE PRISONER, ECLIPSO, IS TO BE MOVED TO ANOTHER JAIL IN CASE HIS GANG TRIES TO FREE HIM!



TO AVOID ATTRACTING ATTENTION, I'LL TRANSFER HIM ALONE! I CAN HANDLE HIM!

IT'S AWFULLY RISKY, SIR, BUT IF YOU SAY SO...

THE PAIR ARE NO SOONER OUTSIDE THE PRISON THAN...



WE PROMISED WE'D FREE YOU, MASTER-- AND WE DID!

EXCELLENT WORK, ZARNIK! THE "WARDEN" HERE KINDLY RETRIEVED MY BLACK GEM, AND NOW I'LL USE IT TO "UNLOCK" THESE STEEL BRACELETS!

BUT THE FANTASTIC ESCAPE HAS BEEN SPOTTED BY TWO AMAZED ONLOOKERS...



THAT WARDEN MUST BE A PHONEY! ONE OF ECLIPSO'S MEN IN DISGUISE!

IT'S A GOOD THING WE DECIDED TO COME TO THE JAIL...BUT NOW, WHEN ECLIPSO CHANGES, BRUCE WILL BE IN THE GANG'S HANDS!



AN AUTO GRAVEYARD-- MUST BE ECLIPSO'S SECRET LAB! MONA, YOU GO FOR THE POLICE, WHILE I TRY TO GET INSIDE!

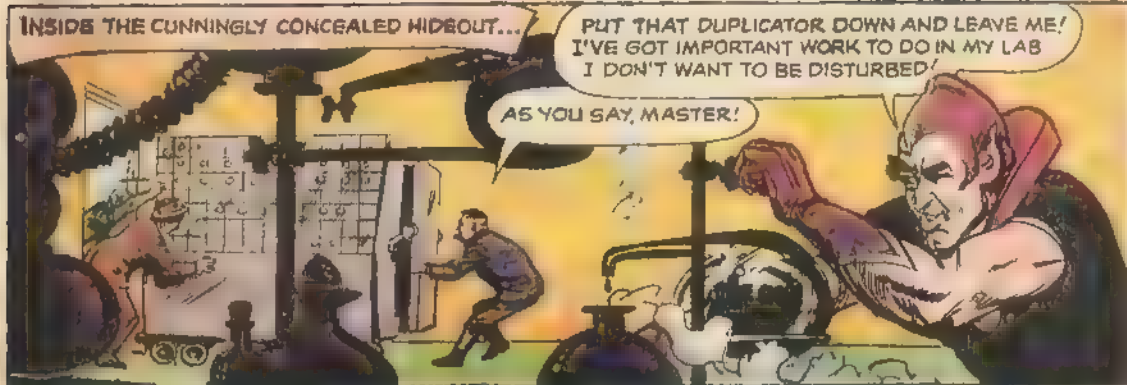
ALL RIGHT, DAD, BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL!



INSIDE THE CUNNINGLY CONCEALED HIDEOUT...

PUT THAT DUPLICATOR DOWN AND LEAVE ME!  
I'VE GOT IMPORTANT WORK TO DO IN MY LAB  
I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!

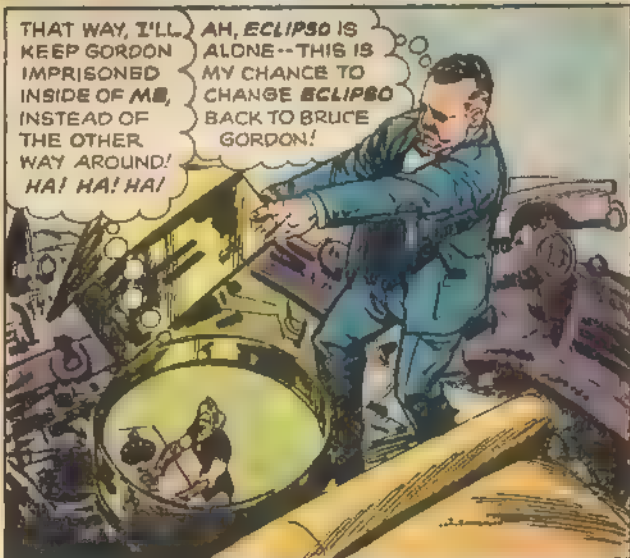
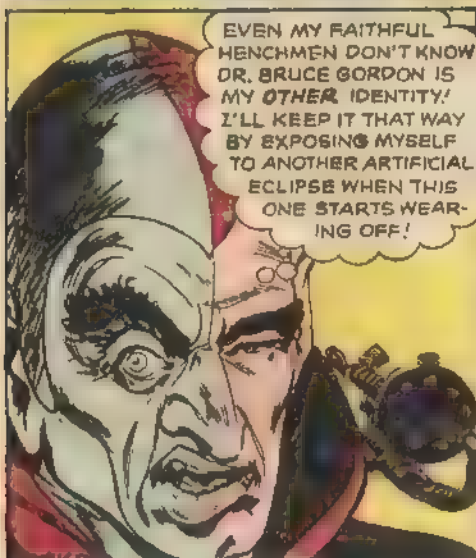
AS YOU SAY, MASTER!



EVEN MY FAITHFUL  
HENCHMEN DON'T KNOW  
DR. BRUCE GORDON IS  
MY OTHER IDENTITY!  
I'LL KEEP IT THAT WAY  
BY EXPOSING MYSELF  
TO ANOTHER ARTIFICIAL  
ECLIPSE WHEN THIS  
ONE STARTS WEAR-  
ING OFF!

THAT WAY, I'LL  
KEEP GORDON  
IMPRISONED  
INSIDE OF ME,  
INSTEAD OF  
THE OTHER  
WAY AROUND!  
HA! HA! HA!

AH, ECLIPSO IS  
ALONE--THIS IS  
MY CHANCE TO  
CHANGE ECLIPSO  
BACK TO BRUCE  
GORDON!

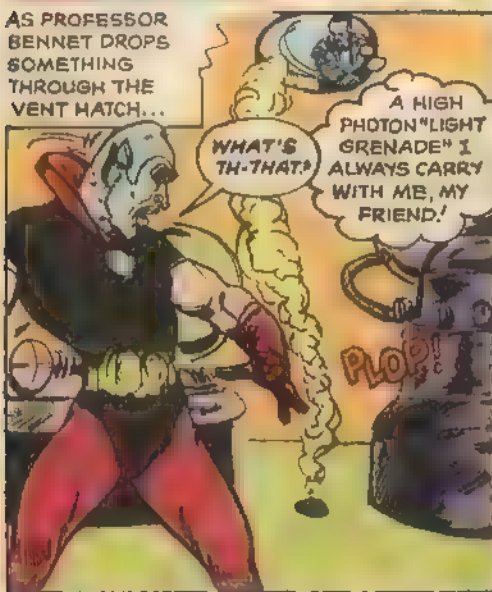


AS PROFESSOR  
BENNET DROPS  
SOMETHING  
THROUGH THE  
VENT HATCH...

WHAT'S  
TH-THAT?

A HIGH  
PHOTON "LIGHT  
GRENADE" I  
ALWAYS CARRY  
WITH ME, MY  
FRIEND!

PLOP!

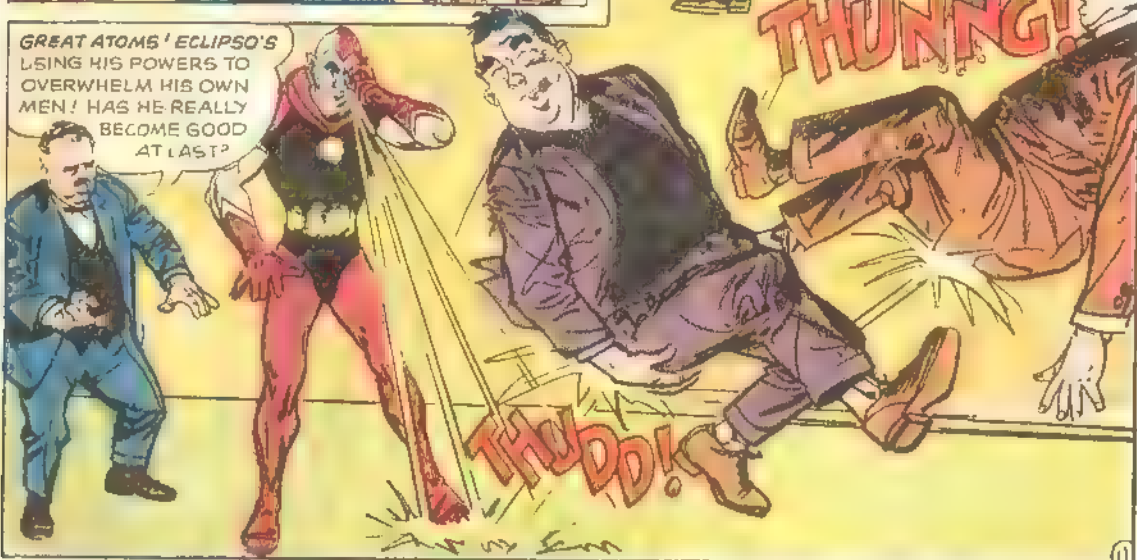
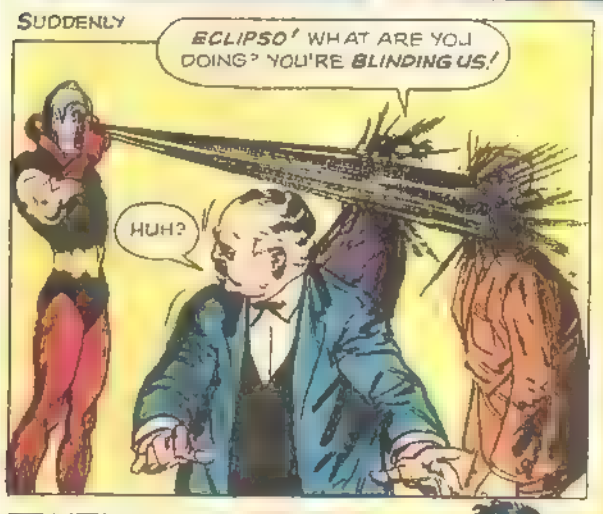


THE NEXT INSTANT

INTENSE LIGHT--  
MY NEMESIS!





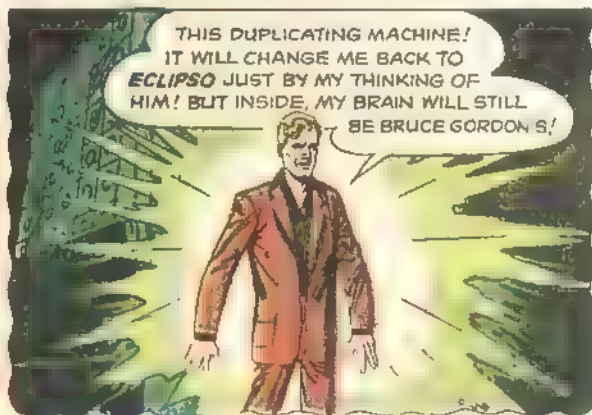




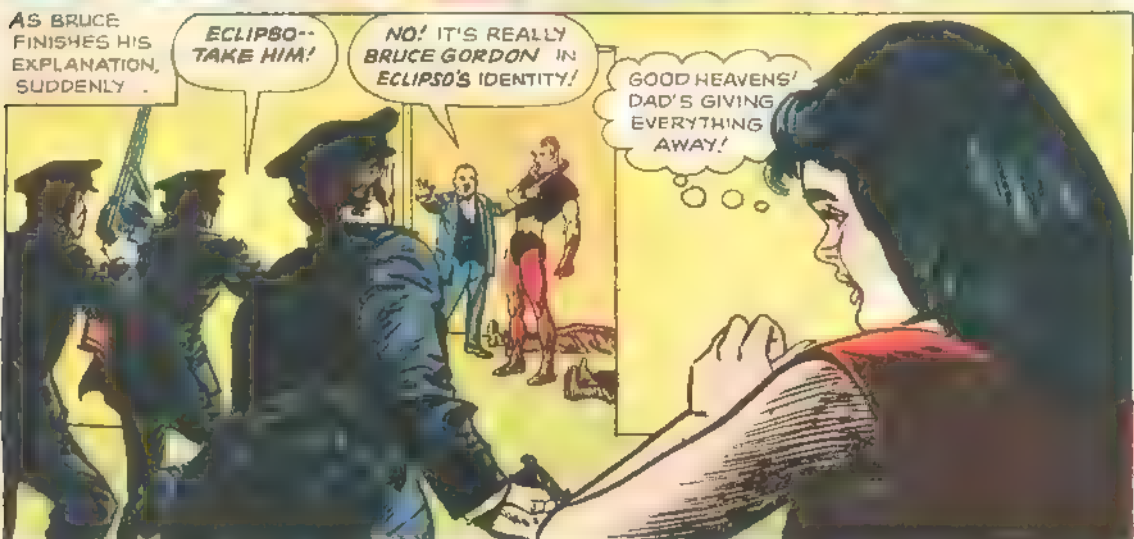


NO, PROFESSOR, ECLIPSO HASN'T BECOME GOOD...YOUR LIGHT GRENADE CHANGED HIM BACK TO BRUCE GORDON, ALL RIGHT!

"BUT WHEN YOU WERE CAPTURED, I KNEW ECLIPSO'S THUGS WOULD SOON FIND ME OUT, SO..."



THIS DUPLICATING MACHINE! IT WILL CHANGE ME BACK TO ECLIPSO JUST BY MY THINKING OF HIM! BUT INSIDE, MY BRAIN WILL STILL BE BRUCE GORDON'S!

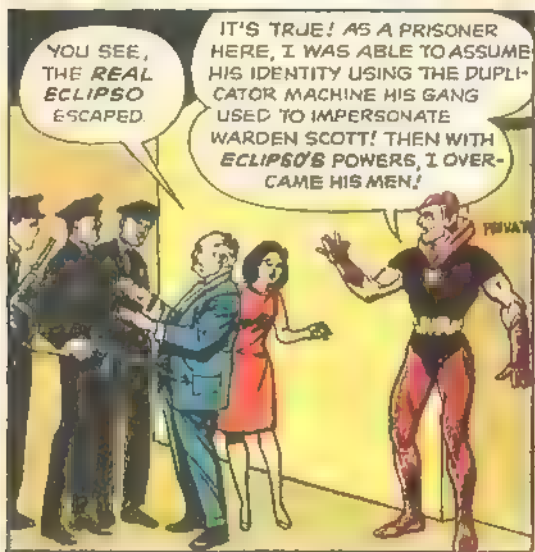


AS BRUCE FINISHES HIS EXPLANATION, SUDDENLY

ECLIPSO-- TAKE HIM!

NO! IT'S REALLY BRUCE GORDON IN ECLIPSO'S IDENTITY!

GOOD HEAVENS! DAD'S GIVING EVERYTHING AWAY!



YOU SEE, THE REAL ECLIPSO ESCAPED.

IT'S TRUE! AS A PRISONER HERE, I WAS ABLE TO ASSUME HIS IDENTITY USING THE DUPLICATOR MACHINE HIS GANG USED TO IMPERSONATE WARDEN SCOTT! THEN WITH ECLIPSO'S POWERS, I OVERCAME HIS MEN!



AND NOW I'LL RESUME MY NORMAL IDENTITY BY REVERSING THE MACHINE'S CONTROL!

HURRY, BRUCE DARLING! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AS YOURSELF AGAIN!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



# MARK MERLIN

**LEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL**



OH, NO! MARK--  
THE GIANT'S SEND-  
ING HIM HURLING  
INTO SPACE!

YES TO A  
PLACE WHERE  
HE CANNOT DEFEY  
ME WITH HIS  
MEDDLESOME  
POWERS! HA,  
HA, HA, HA!

THEY WERE ONLY SILENT STONES --  
HARMLESS ANCIENT RELICS -- BUT  
THEY CONTAINED A SECRET SO  
GIGANTIC IT TORE THE VERY LID  
OFF THE UNKNOWN. AND EVEN  
**MARK MERLIN**, MASTER OF  
THE SUPERNATURAL, WAS BUT A  
PUNY STRAW IN THE PATH OF...

the **GIANT** who  
**ONCE RULED**  
**EARTH**



A STRANGE PATTERN OF UNUSUAL STRUCTURES DOTS THE SUMMER LANDSCAPE JUST OUTSIDE AN AMERICAN CITY, AS A HELICOPTER SPEEDS DOWN FOR A LANDING...

LOOK! THOSE WEIRD STONES IN THE SHAPE OF A BULL'S HEAD-- THAT MUST BE THE PLACE, MARK!

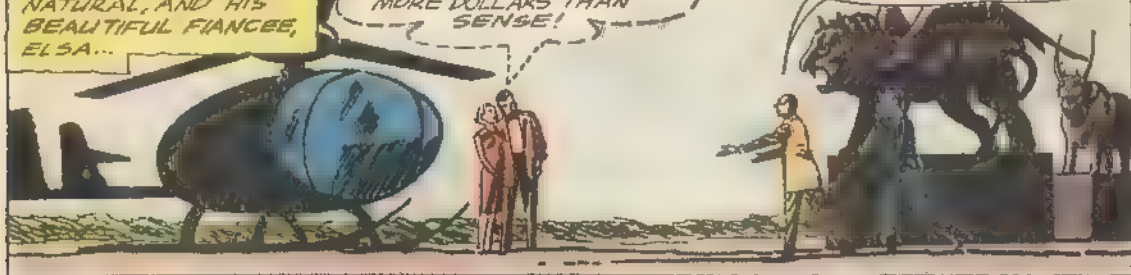
RIGHT, ELSA!



AND ALIGHTING FROM THE WHIRLY BIRD ARE NONE OTHER THAN **MARK MERLIN**, THE ACE OF THE SUPER-NATURAL, AND HIS BEAUTIFUL FIANCEE, ELSA...

HERE COMES THE MAN WHO BROUGHT ALL THIS THOUSANDS OF MILES AND RE-ERECTED IT HERE, ELSA! T.T. BAXTER, WHO'S GOT MORE DOLLARS THAN SENSE!

MARK MERLIN! WHAT AN HONOR! WELCOME TO THE FABLED **TEMPLE OF HALISHAZZAR!**



ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT? EVERY STONE IS EXACTLY AS IT WAS IN THE SO-CALLED "VALLEY OF GIANTS" IN ANCIENT ASSYRIA-- NOT JUST A REPLICA... BUT THE REAL TEMPLE DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL! IT COST ME A FORTUNE BUT IT'S WORTH IT!

AND MY SPECIAL THANKS GO TO CATHCART HERE, MY ASSISTANT WHO SUPERVISED THE WHOLE JOB!

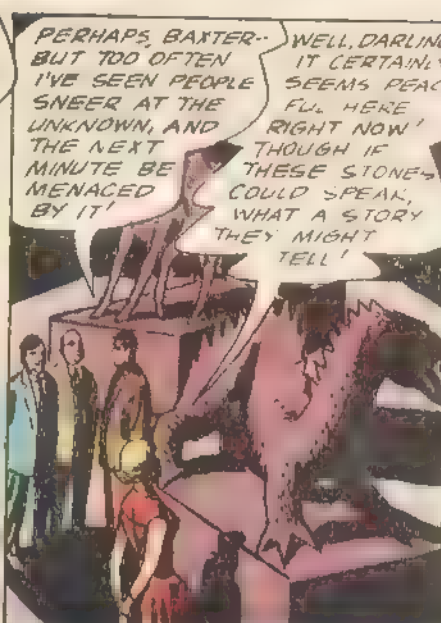
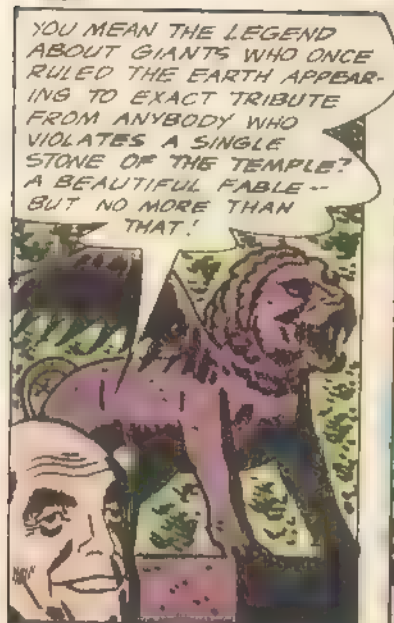
HMM, YES-- BUT I CAME BECAUSE I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW OF THE CURSE OF THE "VALLEY OF GIANTS" BAXTER!







# HOUSE OF SECRETS







# HOUSE OF SECRETS



BUT AS THE ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE'S ASSISTANT TRIGGERS A CLIP OF BULLETS AT THE ONCOMING TERROR...



IT'S NO USE! BULLETS DON'T HARM SUPERNATURAL THREATS! OH, I WAS A FOOL TO LAUGH AT THE LEGEND! WE'RE TRAPPED!

MARK!

BUT JUST SHORT OF THE FOURSOME, THE HUGE MENACE HALTS...



NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU-- IF YOU PAY THE TRIBUTE I DEMAND!

YES, YES... I'LL PAY... I'LL PAY... IF ONLY YOU LEAVE US IN PEACE!

CATHCART! THE VAULT IN MY HOME... THE COMBINATION IS 23--6--47! OPEN IT AND BRING OUT THE BIG MONEY SACK! HURRY, MAN!

YES, SIR, MR. BAXTER!

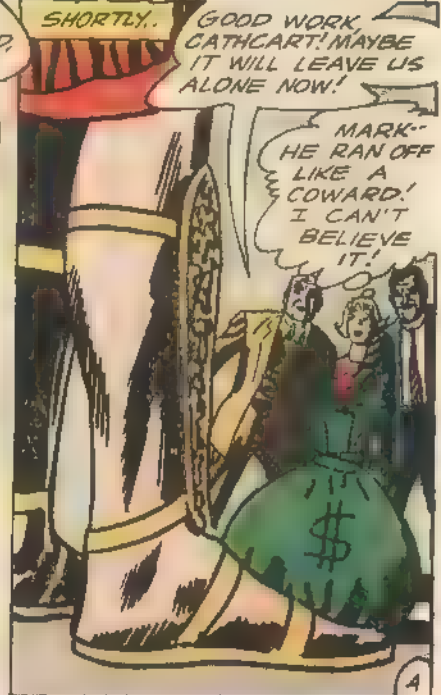
MARK-- WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DON'T YOU HAVE SOME SUPERNATURAL CHARM TO USE AGAINST THAT THING?

I... I JUST REMEMBERED, ELSA-- I'VE GOT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL!

SHORTLY...

GOOD WORK, CATHCART! MAYBE IT WILL LEAVE US ALONE NOW!

MARK-- HE RAN OFF LIKE A COWARD! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!





THEN, THE BONE-JARRING TREAD OF  
HEAVY FEET IS FELT AND...



MERCIFUL  
SPIRITS! A  
HUGE CREATURE  
ADVANCING  
TOWARD US!

BUT... BUT  
THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE!



THE CREATURE  
IS ATTACKING  
THE GIANT? I  
DON'T UNDER  
STAND!

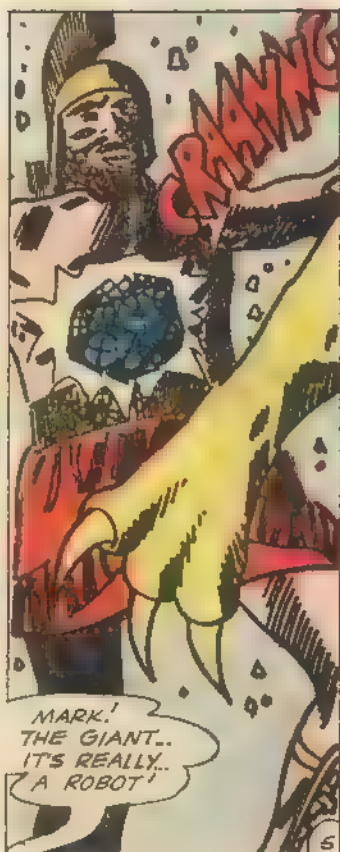
DID YOU THINK I RAN  
AWAY, DARLING? I'M  
RIGHT UP HERE!  
CARE FOR A  
CHARIOT  
RIDE?

MARK!



NOTHING  
LIKE A  
FRONT ROW  
BALCONY  
SEAT TO  
SEE A  
GOOD  
SCRAP  
ELSA!

MARK!  
HOW CAN  
YOU JOKE?  
THOSE TWO  
TERRORS  
ARE  
TEARING  
EACH  
OTHER  
APART!



MARK!  
THE GIANT...  
IT'S REALLY...  
A ROBOT!





# HOUSE OF SECRETS





BUT... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS A HOAX?

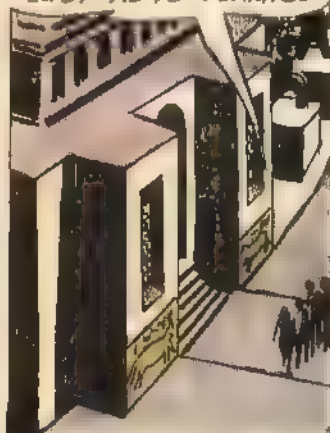
THE GIANT'S HEAD DRESS! BEING THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE LEGEND I KNEW IT WAS A PHONEY- BECAUSE IT COMES FROM A GREEK PERIOD, NOT ASSIRIAN!



CATHCART WAS SO QUICK TO FIRE AT THE GIANT BECAUSE HE KNEW THE PISTOL BULLETS COULDN'T PIERCE ITS METAL SKIN! HE HOPED TO EXACT A "TRIBUTE" OF ALL YOUR WEALTH, MR BAXTER, WITH HIS BOGUS BEHEMOTH.



WELL, THANKS TO YOU, MERLIN, HE FAILED! AND NOW THAT WE'VE SEEN THAT OLD LEGEND IS SO MUCH BUNK, I'M GOING TO DEDICATE THE TEMPLE JUST AS I'D PLANNED!



SHORTLY, AFTER CATHCART AND HIS ACCOMPLICES ARE TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE.

YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, BAXTER? ACTUALLY DEDICATE THE TEMPLE AS WAS DONE IN ANCIENT TIMES WITH THE SACRED WATERS OF THE TIGRIS RIVER?

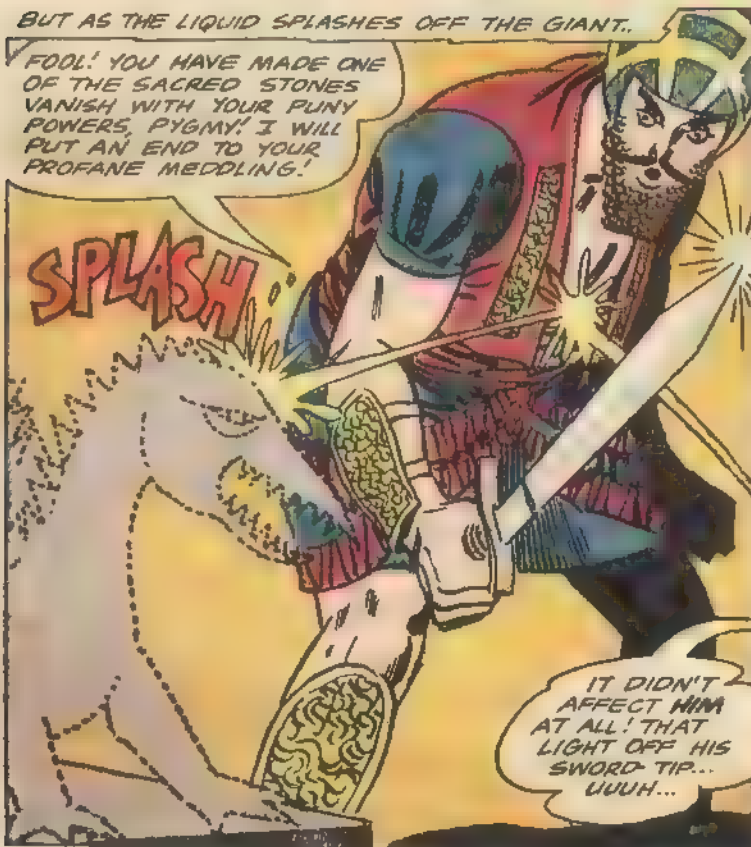
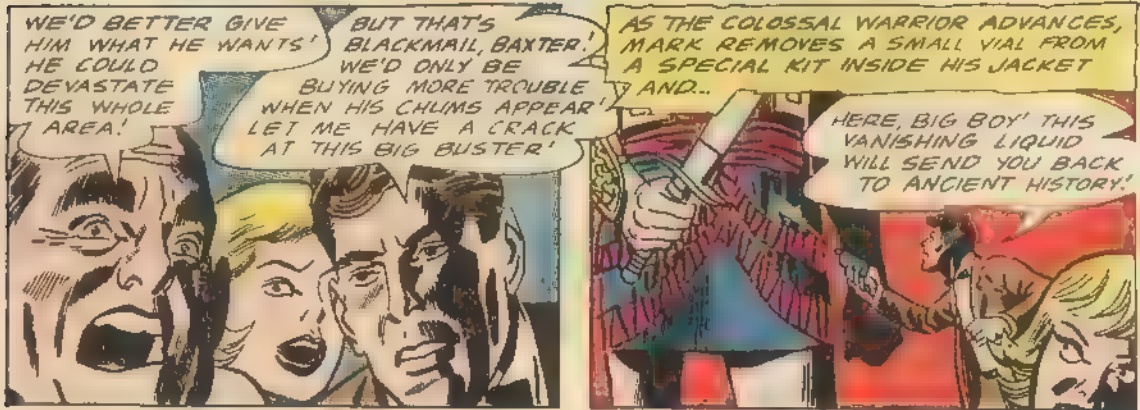
OF COURSE, MERLIN! SURELY, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS RACE OF GIANTS! HA, HA, HA.

BUT AS THE WATER SPRINKLES DOWN FROM THE 20TH CENTURY METAL "BIRD".

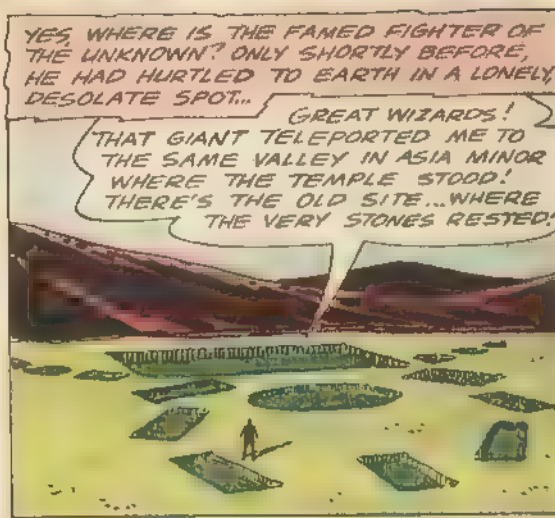
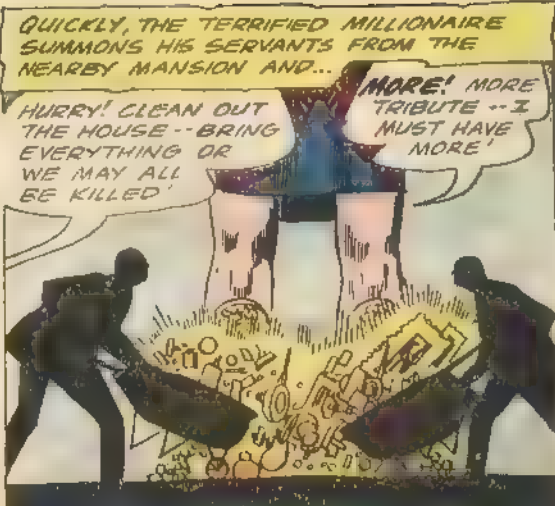
LOOK THERE... STEPPING OUT OF THE TEMPLE HOUSE... ANOTHER GIANT! AND THIS ONE LOOKS REAL!









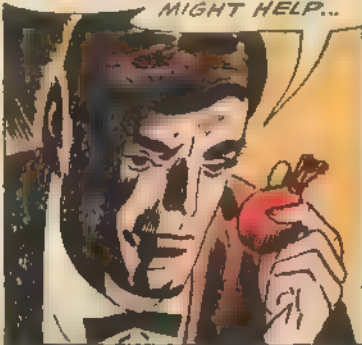






MARK QUICKLY TRANSLATES THE PICTURE WRITING.

THIS IS IT--I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! BUT I'M THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY! UNLESS... UNLESS THIS POTION AN INCAN SEER GAVE ME MIGHT HELP...



I NEVER DARED TO USE IT BEFORE--SINCE ITS EFFECTS MIGHT BE FATAL! BUT THE WORLDS IN DEADLY DANGER! I'VE NO CHOICE! HERE GOES--



QUICKLY SWALLOWING THE DANGEROUS POTION, THE INTREPID EXPLORER OF THE BEYOND IS WRACKED BY VIOLENT SPASMS...



AND ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY, HALF A WORLD AWAY...

MARK? YOU'RE HERE... SAFE!

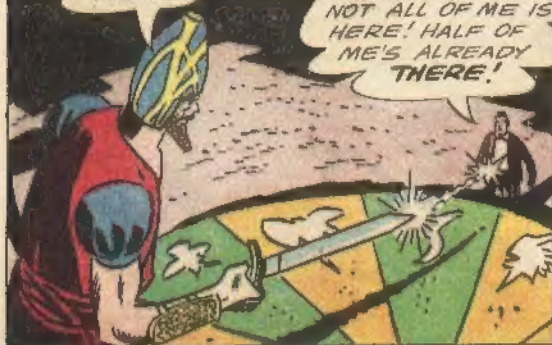




AS MARK CONFRONTS THE GIANT MENACE  
ONCE MORE...

SO YOU'VE RETURNED,  
PYGMY SORCERER! I'LL SEND YOU RIGHT  
BACK...! BY THE SACRED TEMPLE--  
YOU DO NOT HURTLE  
AWAY...

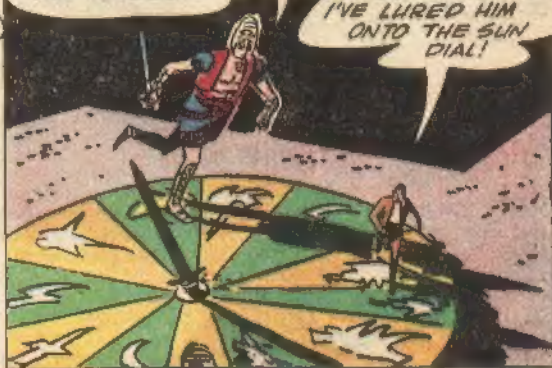
NO, CHUM, SINCE  
NOT ALL OF ME IS  
HERE! HALF OF  
ME'S ALREADY  
THERE!



AND AS THE GIANT TERROR CHARGES  
AFTER MARK'S FANTASTIC SPLIT FORM...

INSOLENT INSECT! THIS  
TIME I WILL FLATTEN  
YOU TO DUST!

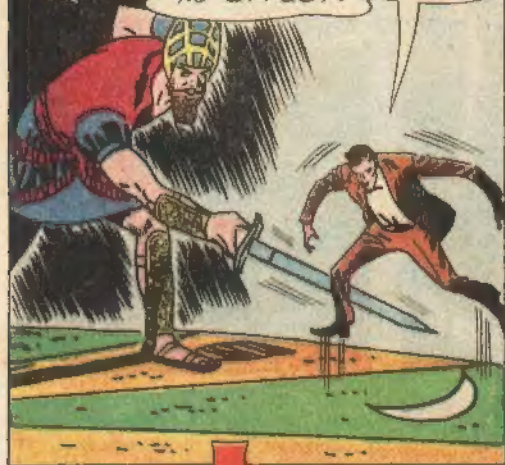
THIS HAS TO  
WORK--OR I'M  
A GONER! THERE--  
I'VE LURED HIM  
ONTO THE SUN  
DIAL!



MARK DEFTLY DODGES THE GREAT  
SWORD'S FIRST SWING...

HA!

BLAZES! I'VE LURED HIM  
INTO THE SUN DIAL'S  
SHADOW... BUT IT'S HAVING  
NO EFFECT!



AND SIMULTANEOUSLY, BACK WHERE THE  
SECOND MARK MERLIN FACES WHAT SEEMS  
LIKE SURE DOOM, THE SAME THOUGHT  
OCCURS...

OF COURSE, THAT'S IT!...  
CRESCENT MOON! BUT  
I'VE GOT TO KEEP  
DODGING THAT SWORD  
A LITTLE LONGER  
OR WIND UP AS  
SHISH-KE-BAB!



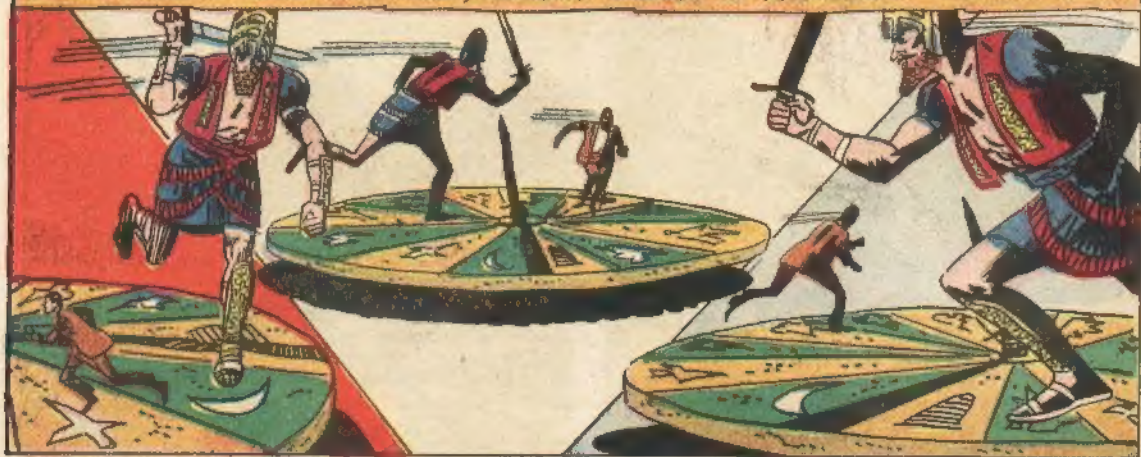
THOUSANDS OF MILES DISTANT, MARK'S  
OTHER SELF IS PONDERING THE SAME  
PULSE-POUNING PUZZLE...

WHAT COULD BE WRONG? THE  
HIEROGLYPHS SAY THAT WHEN  
THE SUN DIAL SHADOW HITS THE  
BEEHIVE MARKING--  
THE GIANT WILL BE  
BANISHED... WAIT!... I SEE  
THE REASON!





AROUND AND AROUND THE SUN DIAL THE DEADLY CHASE GOES--AS THE SUN'S SHADOW SLOWLY CREEPS FROM ONE WEIRD, ANCIENT SYMBOL TO ANOTHER...



THEN...



MARK--  
HE'S  
TRAPPED!

GOOD  
STARS!

BUT AT THE VERY NEXT MOMENT...

YAAAA! THE  
SHADOW--IT  
PULLS ME  
BACK TO  
LIMBO!

AND JUST IN  
TIME, BIG  
BOY-- AND  
THAT'S NO  
PUN!



AND AS THE SHADOW  
ERASES THE TOWERING  
TITAN...

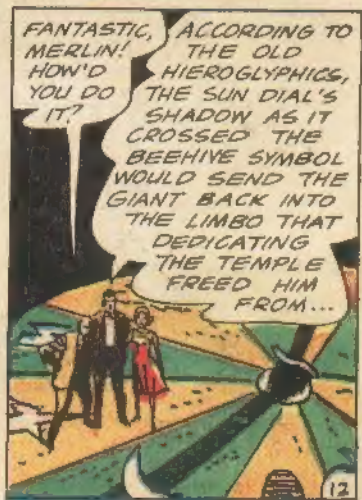
MARK!  
YOU'VE  
WON,  
DARLING!

YES, ELSA, THAT  
GIANT'S GONE  
TO REJOIN HIS  
BROTHERS--  
AND THE  
THREAT TO  
EARTH IS  
ENDED!



FANTASTIC,  
MERLIN!  
HOW'D  
YOU DO  
IT?

ACCORDING TO  
THE OLD  
HIEROGLYPHICS,  
THE SUN DIAL'S  
SHADOW AS IT  
CROSSED THE  
BEEHIVE SYMBOL  
WOULD SEND THE  
GIANT BACK INTO  
THE LIMBO THAT  
DEDICATING THE  
TEMPLE  
FREED HIM  
FROM...





BUT I HADN'T ALLOWED FOR THE TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HERE AND ASIA MINOR! SO I HAD TO STALL UNTIL THE SHADOW HIT THE **CRESCENT MOON** SYMBOL!



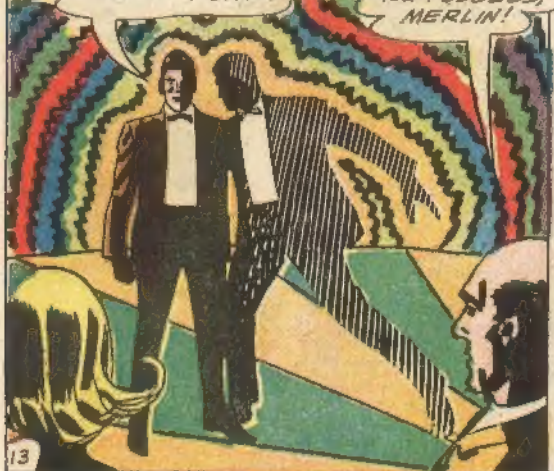
ONLY THEN WAS THE SUN IN THE RIGHT SPOT IN THE SKY WHERE IT HAD THE POWER TO VANQUISH THE GIANT! LUCKILY, MY OTHER SELF FIGURED IT OUT IN TIME!

FASCINATING, MERLIN! BUT WHERE'S THAT OTHER SELF NOW...?



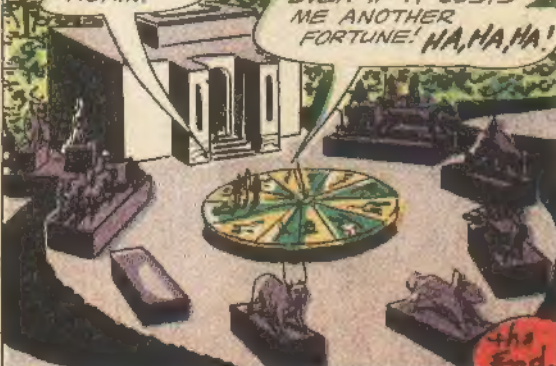
I'VE SUMMONED HIM BACK...! THE COSMIC CONNECTIONS BEING MADE NOW! I'M WHOLE AGAIN!

WHAT UNIQUE MASTERY YOU POSSESS, MERLIN!



MY POWERS ARE ONLY "BORROWED" FROM THE UNKNOWN, BAXTER! THAT'S SOMETHING I THINK YOU SHOULDN'T TAMPER WITH AGAIN!

I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! AFTER I HAVE MY WEALTH RESTORED, I'M SHIPPING THE TEMPLE BACK WHERE I FOUND IT- EVERY STONE! EVEN IF IT COSTS ME ANOTHER FORTUNE! **HA, HA, HA!**



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# WORLD of the WEIRD

"Possession" is the magical term signifying the taking over of someone else's body. Secret incantations were supposedly the means by which this could be done.

In Switzerland, during the 17th century, ordinary people lived in terror lest some evil person who had learned the incantation would take over their bodies. No one seemed to think about the reverse—that is, of a *good* person learning the incantation. Yet, this is precisely what appeared to have happened one day.

The occasion was a violent fire that had broken out in a small village. A tiny child, barely able to walk, was trapped behind a curtain of flames. The child was given up for lost!

Yet hundreds of onlookers actually saw the little child suddenly spring to its feet, soak a large cloth in water, cover itself with the cloth—and run full speed through the leaping flames to safety!

The villagers were forever after convinced that some good person with a knowledge of the incantation, had taken over the child's body temporarily, and in this manner had saved its life!

\* \* \*

Theophrastus Bombast von Hohenheim (circa 1490-1541), known as Paracelsus, was a German physician and astrologer who wandered all over Europe. Reportedly, he used herbs to effect some remarkable cures.

But Paracelsus is best known for his "magic mirror"—which he used to divine future events.

According to thousands of eyewitnesses, it was possible for a man to glance into the magic mirror and tell what the future had in store for him. Wherever he went, he demonstrated his remarkable mirror, and innumerable subjects testified that they had actually discovered their fate in it.

Legend has it that the mirror continued to be used even after the death of Paracelsus. The mirror was supposed to have been smashed by an angry nobleman when it divined that he would die after a high fall. And according to the legend, the nobleman died exactly in this manner!

\* \* \*

The "Athame" is the name of the black-handled knife by which witches were supposedly empowered to draw a magic circle. The magic circle itself took a variety of forms. Some were able to invoke demons, it was believed. Others were used as a protective device.

A famous case illustrates the latter use. It is reported to have occurred somewhere in Europe, in the Middle Ages, during a violent campaign against witches. A woman, suspected of practicing witchcraft, was chased into a field where her pursuers began closing in on all sides. Swiftly, she drew out her athame, and drew a circle in the ground around her.

One cannot say if the effect was psychological or not. The fact is, none of her pursuers was able to cross the magic circle, to get at the suspected witch, who escaped sometime during the night.

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